

Message Text

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TAGS: EWWT, BE

SUBJECT:US-CSG LINER SHIPPING TALKS

REF: STATE 139332

1. ALTHOUGH REFTEL WAS PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SHEFLER TO SECRETARY ADAMS, DEPARTMENT WISHES TO CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS MADE IN IT, IN LIGHT OF FINAL CONCLUSION OF MAY 30-JUNE 1 TALKS.

2. U.S. DELEGATION TO LINER SHIPPING TALKS DESCRIBED REFTEL WAS MULTIAGENCY DELEGATION LED AND CHAIRED BY STATE. OTHER AGENCIES REPRESENTED WERE COMMERCE (MARITIME ADMINISTRATION), JUSTICE, FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC POLICY STAFF.
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3. DISCUSSIONS OF BASIC US-CSG (CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING GROUP) DIFFERENCES IN LINER POLICIES HAVE BEEN HELD PREVIOUSLY. TALKS SIMILAR TO MAY 30-JUNE 1 TALKS WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON SOME YEARS BACK, AND SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MEETING PERIODICALLY IN RECENT YEARS WITH CSG COUNTERPARTS TO DISCUSS SHIPPING POLICY

ISSUES. MAY 30-JUNE 1 TALKS WERE RESULT OF DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON LINER POLICIES, AND CONCERNS EXPRESSED AT THESE TALKS WERE NOT NEW.

4. BASIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO U.S. AND CSG COUNTRIES ARE WIDER THAN THOSE JUST RELATING TO ANTITRUST POLICY, AS IS INDICATED BY THE RANGE OF TOPICS COVERED AT THE MAY 30-JUNE 1 TALKS, WHICH INCLUDED DIFFERING CONCEPTS OF JURISDICTION AND U.S. REGULATORY POLICY, FORMS OF LINER CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION, DIFFERING VIEWS AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTES DISCRIMINATORY AND UNFAIR PRACTICES, REPRESENTATION OF SHIPPER AND CONSUMER INTERESTS, ACCESS TO DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION, AND PROCEDURES FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION.

5. WHILE CSG COUNTRIES ARE OBVIOUSLY DISSATISFIED WITH SOME ASPECTS OF CURRENT US-CSG SHIPPING RELATIONS, IT WOULD BE AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THEY VIEW CURRENT SITUATION AS LUDICROUS, SINCE MOST OF THEM DO UNDERSTAND STATUTORY BASES FOR U.S. REGULATION OF SHIPPING. DURING MAY 30-JUNE 1 TALKS, USDEL MADE CLEAR THAT SINCE ADMINISTRATION HAS EMBARKED ON - COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SHIPPING POLICY, POLICY DECISIONS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS OF CONCERN TO CSG COUNTRIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMULATED. U.S. DEL THEREFORE AGREED THAT USG WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO REPRESENTATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CSG COUNTRIES BUT FIRMLY AVOIDED SPECIFIC COMMITMENT TO COMPROMISE BY U.S. NO COMMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO EUROPEANS TO SUGGEST THAT PRESENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS WILL BE CURTAILED. CHRISTOPHER

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